THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Balance amount of funds under MPLADS

1334. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reason for Government for not sending the total of one crore rupees to each Member of Parliament and for sending only fifty lakhs of rupees; and

(b) whether Government will reconsider the matter and thereby send the remaining fifty lakhs rupees immediately so that the projects can be completed before the Lok Sabha Election?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA):

(a) As per the guidelines on MPLADS, the amount of Rs. one crore is to be released by the Department of programme implementation for each MP in two instalments on the basis of physical and financial progress of works under implementation and further requirement of funds for works.

(b) The information pertaining to utilisation of funds already released under the scheme has been called for from the concerned Collectors separately in respect of each MP. The second instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs for the year 1995-96 would be released on receipt and scrutiny of the Collector's reports on physical and financial progress of the works.

Rehabilitation of released bonded labour

1335. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) number of bonded labour released from hazardous industries in the country during 1993, 1994 and 1995 with year-wise break-up; and

(b) whether all the released labour have been rehabilitated, if not, the number of labourers who still remain to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Since enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, a total of 2,51,424 bonded labourers have been identified and released by the State Governments, out of which only about 6,000 bonded labourers are awaiting rehabilitation. The names of the industries in which these bonded labourers were working is not available.

Imports/Exports to Pakistan

1336. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items presently exported to and imported from Pakistan;

(b) the steps taken to increase the trade between both the countries during the last three years;

(c) whether there is a vast scope for promotion of trade between both the countries;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in that direction; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Major items presently exported to Pakistan include oil meals, iron ore, dyes & coal tar, chemicals, spices, and drugs & pharmaceuticals, and those imported from Pakistan include fruits and nuts, spices, textile yarn, fabrics & made-ups, leather, and fertilizers manufactured.

(b) to (e) Trade between India and Pakistan is hampered by Pakistan Government's restrictive policy for imports from India. Pakistan has not

accorded Most-Favoured-Nation status to India in contravention of its GATT/ WTO obligations; instead it currently allows imports from India only against a unilateral list of 570 items, many of which do not have a real export potential from India. Under the circumstances, it is not feasible to formulate a promotion strategy for trade with Pakistan, even if there is a vast scope. The Government of India have made a formal demarche to the Pakistan Government about the MFN status, response to which is awaited.

Meanwhile, it is expected that some trade promotion would be facilitated with the operationalisation of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and the recent understanding among all SAARC member countries to carry the SAPTA process forward.

Delaying on Implementation of Electronics Projects under MPLADS

1337. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether Government is aware that under the MPLADS the Collectors are delaying the projects on grounds of improper interpretation of the paragraph 3 on page 4 of guidelines on implementation of electronics projects;

(b) if so, when the paragraph is so liberal and the object is to find a school, college or centralised place wherein students in general could be given exposure/training on computers then what is the point in doubting whether a school is aided or unaided; and

(c) whether Government would issue instructions to Collectors that the document is 'guideline' and not a rule or law and that the interpretation must be liberal and objective and not literal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) One such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government very recently. The factual report in the matter has been called for from the Collector.

(b) The guidelines on implementations of electronic projects issued by the Department of Electronics, which have been referred to by the Hon'ble Member are subject to the overall guidelines issued by the Department of Programme Implementation. This has also been made clear by formally amending the guidelines of the Department of Programme Implementation Vide its O.M. dated 24.9.1995. The guidelines of the Department of Programme Implementation stipulate assistance to government and government aided schools.

(c) The guidelines have the force of rules in as much as no change can be made in the guidelines without its being brought to the prior notice of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The question whether general instructions in the matter should be issued or not, will be considered in the light of the reply received from the Collector.

Non-Lifting of PDS Supplies by Consumers

1338. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 115 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1995 and state what remedial measures Government propose to take to increase lifting of rationed items by consumers from Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): Central Govern-